

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 FPC-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 SAJ-01 DRC-01

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R 070920Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8639

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DEPT PASS EXIMBANK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, JA, UR, US

SUBJ: US-JAPAN CONSULTATIONS ON YAKUTSK PROJECT

1. TOKYO GAS SOURCE INFORMED EMBASSY DEC 7 THAT
TALKS BETWEEN JAPANESE TEAM AND EL PASO GAS REPRESENTATIVES
IN HOUSTON BEGINNING DEC 3 APPARENTLY WENT QUITE WELL.
SOURCE PROVIDED FOLLOWING BACKGROUND ON AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY
REACHED BETWEEN MURAKAMI, EXECUTIVE V.P. OF TOKYO GAS, AND
CARAMAROS, V.P. OF EL PASO GAS AT HOUSTON MEETINGS:

A) AT PRESENT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS, STUDIES AND TALKS
WILL BE CONCENTRATED ON MATTERS RELATED TO EXPLORATION AND
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ACCORDING TO FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

1) IN PRINCIPLE, JAPAN AND U.S. WILL WORK OUT ESTIMATES
OR PROJECTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND COMPARE PROJECTED LISTS OF
NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.

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2) U.S. AND JAPANESE TEAMS WILL MEET IN HONOLULU ON

JAN 7 TO COMPARE RESULTS OF ON-THE-SPOT GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CONDUCTED BY TEAMS FROM EACH COUNTRY IN YAKUTSK AREA. (EIGHT-MAN TECHNICAL TEAM SCHEDULED TO LEAVE JAPAN DEC 11).

B) TOKYO GAS CHAIRMAN ANZAI AND EL PASO CHAIRMAN BOYD WILL MEET IN PARIS IN EARLY FEBRUARY (AT INTERNATIONAL LNG MEETING) TO DISCUSS QUOTE BASIC AND FUNDAMENTAL MATTERS UNQUOTE.

C) BOYD-ANZAI MEETING WILL BE FOLLOWED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. AND JAPAN EX-IMBANKS.

D) BASED ON RESULTS OF ABOVE MEETINGS, U.S. AND JAPANESE SIDE WILL MAKE EFFORTS TO OFFER CREDITS TO SOVIETS AND TO CONCLUDE CONTRACTS TO SUPPLY EQUIPMENT IN EARLY MARCH.

2. WITH RESPECT TO QUESTIONS OF PRICE, TOKYO GAS SOURCE REPORTED THAT TWO SIDES HAD AGREED THAT PRICES ESTABLISHED IN CONNECTION WITH MURMANSK (NORTH STAR) GAS PROJECT WOULD BE USED AS A REFERENCE POINT.

3. COMMENT: ON BASIS OF ABOVE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT TWO SIDES MADE SUBSTANTIAL HEADWAY IN RESOLVING DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE DELAYED PROGRESS TOWARD CONCLUDING EXPLORATION PROJECT WITH SOVIETS. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL GAS, JOINT VENTURES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO15890
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731236/aaaabaqo.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <19-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-JAPAN CONSULTATIONS ON YAKUTSK PROJECT
TAGS: ENRG, JA, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005